



Digital Commons@

Loyola Marymount University
LMU Loyola Law School

Spiritual Essays

Center for Ignatian Spirituality

2011

Rhubarb Pie

Fr. Randy Roche

Loyola Marymount University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Roche, Fr. Randy, "Rhubarb Pie" (2011). *Spiritual Essays*. 165.
<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays/165>

This Essay is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritual Essays by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

Rhubarb Pie

I happen to like rhubarb pie, and learned how easy it is, with a store-bought crust, to bake this treat. The surprise for me was in doing something that for many years I had considered as being far beyond my capabilities. When our mind-set suggests that we are unable to think creatively, or to learn a new behavior, or even to bake a pie, we cannot. If we focus on the metaphorical wall directly in front of us, and do not turn our heads, we will fail to notice the entryway a short distance to either side.

Each of us has developed many skills. Some of us are problem-solvers, others put almost anyone at ease; some excel at reasoning, others are adept at noticing any and all emotions. As we grow in confidence in the habitual exercise of our competencies we probably become aware that other persons have proficiencies that differ from ours. Though we might not consciously decide to place restrictions on ourselves, we can somehow fail to allow the growth of even a small new branch on the tree trunks of our lives.

As satisfied as we might be with our ordinary and habitual performance, we will sometimes be even more pleased if we try a new manner for directing a little of our energies. One person takes up a form of art, another begins to write, and still another makes visits to persons who are confined by health or imprisonment. We are all capable of much more in life than acting only according to our accustomed activities and attitudes.

Though we surely have some limitations as humans, we can take encouragement for attempting new patterns of thought and action by reflecting on God's unlimited resources in creating us. If we create, we have to work with available supplies, and must decide how much time and effort, and perhaps what quantity of material to put into whatever we do. In contrast, God has no constraints in gifting us with capabilities and options for growth and learning, which each of us can continually develop according to our unique personalities.

We differ, one from another, not because there is a limited supply of hair color, intelligence, or inventiveness, so that one of us would receive this quality and another that. Rather, all of us fulfill the purpose of our lives through the medium and effective power of the unlimited gift of love that we have each received. We complement the talents and capabilities of others by employing those that we have received and developed. No matter how few or small we might think our gifts are in comparison with those of others, there is no limit to how much we can love in and through what we say and do. Not even time is a limit to love, since "love never ends." (I Cor. 13:8)

If we consider our purpose and the absence of all limitations on our capacity to love, we can attempt anything new that seems to us a means for exercising this awesome power that not only comes from God, but is God within us. Such is the secret ingredient for making a rhubarb pie, or anything else that we might try.